

**For Immediate Release
November 17, 2010**

New Sidewalks to Improve Pedestrian Safety on Lockbourne and Koebel Roads

Joined by Marion-Franklin High School Principal Pamela Diggs, Mayor Michael B. Coleman opened a rebuilt Lockbourne Road between State Route 104 and Groveport Road. The reconstructed road that runs by the Marion-Franklin Community Center and Swimming Pool includes new sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the street and new street lights. New sidewalks were also added to Koebel Road between Lockbourne Road and Marion-Franklin High School at 1265 Koebel Road.

“Our investment in these sidewalks and bike lanes makes Lockbourne and Koebel Roads safer for students and others who walk or ride their bicycles in the area,” said Mayor Coleman. “Motorists need to slow down, watch out for pedestrians and safely and legally share the road with bicycles.”

Lockbourne Road between State Route 104 and Groveport Road was widened from two to three lanes to accommodate a new left turn lane. The turn lane will make left turns safer at the Marion-Franklin Community Center and Swimming Pool, Koebel Road, residences and businesses. In addition, 47 Americans With Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps were added.

The project also installed both sanitary and storm sewers in the area which had no sewers prior to the improvements. The sanitary sewers will replace septic systems, while the storm sewers will improve drainage to reduce flooding during heavy rains. A portion of the sewer improvements are funded through an assessment that property owners in the project area will pay through their property taxes. The property owners agreed to the assessment before construction started. The \$6.8 million project was completed ahead of schedule; the original completion date was the spring of 2011.